

## **Rule 505 Religious privilege**

- (a) Definitions. As used in this rule:
  - (1) A "clergyman" is a minister, priest, rabbi, accredited Christian Science practitioner, or other similar functionary of a religious organization, or an individual reasonably believed so to be by the person consulting him.
  - (2) A communication is "confidential" if made privately and not intended for further disclosure except to other persons present in furtherance of the purpose of the communication.
- (b) General rule of privilege. A person has a privilege to refuse to disclose and to prevent another from disclosing a confidential communication between the person and a clergyman in his professional character as spiritual adviser.
- (c) Who may claim the privilege. The privilege may be claimed by the person, by his guardian or conservator, or by his personal representative if he is deceased. The person who was the clergyman at the time of the communication is presumed to have authority to claim the privilege but only on behalf of the communicant.

**Effective:** July 1, 1992

**History:** Enacted 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 88, sec. 27; amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 324, sec. 10; renumbered (7/1/92) pursuant to 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 324, sec. 34.